

GLOUCESTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Acting Medical Officer
of Health

C. D. OUTRED,
D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., (Eng.)

For the Year 1943

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Gloucester Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Gloucester.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Health Report on the Sanitary conditions together with Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1943.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. D. OUTRED,

D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S. (Eng.)

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Population	...	...	...	32,130
(As Estimated by the Registrar General)				
Rateable value	...	...	...	£181,207
Sum represented by one penny rate	...	...	...	£745.

Vital Statistics.

Births (Live).				Still Births.			
	M.	F.	Total		M.	F.	Total
Total ...	310	296	606	Total	8	8	16
Legitimate ...	292	236	578	Legitimate ...	7	8	15
Illegitimate	18	10	28	Illegitimate	1	—	1

Birth rate per 1,000 population ... 18.8.

4.6% of total births were illegitimate.

Infantile Death Rate.

(Deaths under one year of age)

	M.	F.	Total
Total ...	14	8	22
Legitimate ...	12	7	19
Illegitimate ...	2	1	3

Infantile Death rate per 1,000 Live Births ... 36.3.

Deaths at all Ages

Males 183, Females 178. Total 361.

Death Rate per 1,000 population, 11.2 per 1,000 population.

70 deaths of Residents dying outside the district were transferred in and 318 of Non-residents dying in the district were transferred to their own areas.

The certified causes of death were given as follows :—

<i>Disease :</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Disease :</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Cerebro Spinal —	1		Other diseases of the Cir-		
Scarlet Fever 1	—		culatory System .. 8	4	
Whooping Cough 1	—		Bronchitis 10	8	
Diphtheria —	4		Pneumonia 16	7	
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) 11	4		Other Respiratory Diseases 4	1	
Other forms of Tuberculosis 5	2		Ulcer of Stomach or Duo-		
Influenza 3	3		denum 3	2	
Ac. inf. enceph. —	2		Diarrhœa under 2 years .. 1	1	
Cancer :			Appendicitis 1	—	
Bucc. and Œsoph (M)			Other Digestive Diseases .. 3	5	
Uterus (F.) —	1		Nephritis 4	10	
Stomach and Duo-			Natural Causes —	2	
denum 4	1		Premature Birth 1	2	
Breast —	4		Con. Mal Birth Infant Dis. 5	2	
Other Sites 9	14		Suicide 1	1	
Diabetes —	1		Road Traffic Accidents .. 6	2	
Intra-Cranial Vascular			Other Violent Deaths .. 4	5	
lesions 20	20		All Other Causes 16	19	
Heart Disease 46	50				
			All Causes 183	178	

40% of total deaths were due to Heart Disease and Disease of Arteries, 9% were due to Cancer and 6% were due to Tuberculosis.

Infectious Diseases Notified

(Not including Tuberculosis)

Measles, 306 ; Scarlet Fever, 207 ; Diphtheria, 84 ; Whooping Cough, 41 ; Pneumonia, 34 ; Erysipelas, 9 ; Puerperal Pyrexia, 4 ; Typhoid Fever, 1 ; Ophthalmia Neonotorum, 1.

218 cases were removed to Hospital.

Age periods affected by the principal Infectious Diseases

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5 to 15 years</i>	<i>15 to 25 years</i>	<i>25 & upwards</i>
Measles	134	160	9	3
Scarlet Fever	63	113	19	12
Diphtheria	12	48	14	10
Whooping Cough	20	18	—	3
Erysipelas	1	1	—	7
Pneumonia	9	6	—	19

Tuberculosis. No. and age period notified

MALES						
	<i>under 5</i>	<i>5 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 25</i>	<i>25 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 upwards</i>
Pulmonary	—	1	11	8	3	6
Non-Pulmonary	1	2	2	—	2	—

FEMALES						
	<i>under 5</i>	<i>5 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 25</i>	<i>25 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 upwards</i>
Pulmonary	—	—	5	2	2	2
Non-Pulmonary	—	3	5	1	2	—

During the year, 10 notifications were received of persons being transferred into the district, 2 left this area and 18 were admitted to Hospital or Sanatorium for treatment and 22 deaths were registered from Tuberculosis or 6% of the total deaths registered during the year.

Number of Cases on the Register at the end of 1943

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			<i>Grand Total</i>
<i>M</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	
110	38	148	82	46	128	276

Immunisation against Diphtheria

	<i>Under 5 years</i>	<i>5 to 15 years</i>
No. of persons known to be completely immunised or 31 Dec. 1943	1459	2576
Percentage of the population (as taken from the food register) at those ages	52.4	58.7

Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality rates for the last four years

	1940	1941	1942	1943
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.2	16.5	19.5	18.8
Death Rate	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.2
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births ..	45.8	55.2	34.9	36.3

For comparison the figures are given for England and Wales, etc.

	<i>England & Wales</i>	<i>126 County Boroughs and Greater Towns</i>	<i>148 Smaller Towns</i>	<i>County of Gloucestershire</i>	<i>Gloucester Rural District</i>
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.5	18.6	19.4	18.7	18.8
Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.1	14.2	12.7	12.1	11.2
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	49	56	46	40	36.3

Housing Act 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

Owing to war conditions no action taken.

Inspection of (Dwelling)-Houses during the Year.

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	98
	(b) Number of Inspections made for that purpose	...	124
2. (a)	Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head 1 above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	... ..	nil
	(b) Number of Inspections made for that purpose	...	nil
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	nil
4.	Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-section found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	32

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Informal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers	21
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. (i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served regarding repairs	9
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after formal notices :—		
	(a) By Owners	... ..	9
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices regarding defect to be remedied	... ..	6
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :		
	(a) By Owners	... ..	6
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	nil

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops, Workplaces including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances :

Premises :	Inspections.	No. of Written Notices
Factories including Laundries	28	3
Workshops including Workshop Laundries ...	72	6

Defects found in Factories, Workshops, Workplaces.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :	No. of Defects	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness, etc.	7	7
Inefficient Sanitary Accommodation ...	4	4

Food Inspections

The amount of food condemned during the year was as follows :
Meat, 849 lbs. ; Tinned food, 1319 lbs. ; Fish, 406 lbs.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	No. of In- spections.	Notices served		Nuisances abated after Notices	
		Informal.	Formal.	Informal.	Formal.
Dwelling-houses	149	31	16	21	14
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	302	26	—	22	—
Bakehouses ...	35	1	—	1	—
Factories and Workshops, etc.	82	3	—	3	—

Number of Visits made to premises for the purpose of Disinfecting
after Infectious Diseases 304

Eradication of Bed-bugs.

Four houses were found to be infested and were disinfested by the Department.

Scabies

At the commencement of the year a number of persons were reported suffering with this skin affection, from among the School Children and also at the Hostels where many Factory Workers were housed. In certain instances owing to overcrowding, or unwillingness sometimes of Parents to apply for treatment, it was considered necessary to recommend that the Patients be removed to Hospital. This Scheme proved most satisfactory as it enabled a

rapid cure to be obtained, thorough steam disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc. and prevented further infection of other people living in the same house and often sleeping in the same room. Towards the end of the year the number of cases reported had considerably diminished.

Water Supplies

Only a part of the District has a pipe supply. Certain parishes are supplied by the Gloucester Corporation, others by the Stroud Water Company, and several by private supplies. By far the largest area is dependent on shallow wells, and in a "dry" time experience a shortage of water.

During 1943, owing to the shortage of labour and material, only small extensions to the existing mains were made, viz., in the parishes of Brookthorpe and Longney.

As milk is produced at practically all the farms in the Council's Area, those without a piped supply suffer badly, as the lack of water for cleansing, cooling milk etc., becomes a very serious matter. In some cases, water has to be hauled a distance of 3 to 4 miles to water the stock and in others the stock has to be driven to the nearest water supply, neither of these methods being satisfactory from any point of view. The parishes in which the greatest need for a supply exists are: Arlingham, Chaceley, Down Hatherley, Elmore, Forthampton, Hasfield, Maisemore, Minsterworth, Newnham, Norton, Sandhurst, Tirley, Twigworth, Upton St. Leonards, Westbury-on-Severn and those parts of the parishes of Brockworth, Frampton, Fretherne with Saul and Longney not yet served by a main supply.

The parish which suffers worst from a water shortage is Newnham. This small town, with a population of some 900, has a water undertaking owned by the Gloucester R.D.C. who took it over from the Newnham U.D.C. when that body was absorbed by them in 1935.

This consists of a reservoir at "Blaize Bailey," about a mile west of Newnham, of about 50,000 gallons capacity supplied by several small springs and an adit driven into the side of the hill. The flow is very poor indeed and in a dry period the householders are cut down to as little as one hour's supply in 24.

In other parishes, water for domestic purposes has to be carried long distances, as and when the supply from the shallow wells fail. At the best of times the supply from these wells is suspicious.

It is obvious if a supply of "clean milk" is to be produced in the district, the farms without a good and constant supply of water must be provided with one as soon as possible and this also applies to those parishes where there is only a poor water supply.